

Sutton Music Service



Ensembles Welcome Pack: 2021/2022



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Ensembles Welcome Pack

Sutton Music Service

As lead partner in the Sutton Music Hub, Sutton Music Service works with a range of partner organisations to create all kinds of opportunities for children and young people in the London Borough of Sutton to have excellent, high-quality music education. Supported using public funding from the Department for Education and Arts Council England, we are tasked with delivering the aspirations of the National Plan for Music Education (2011).

Thousands of children gain their first experience of learning to play a musical instrument through our successful 'First Access' Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (WCET) programme. Many more young people access high-quality music education through our peripatetic vocal and instrumental tutors at local schools and at our Wednesday and Saturday Music Academy. Our ensembles provide opportunities for young musicians to progress through our structure of bands, orchestras, and choirs. We work closely with local schools to support and augment music provision, develop a singing strategy and offer an extensive and affordable instrument loan service.

Sutton Music Service is part of Cognus Limited, a private company jointly owned by the London Borough of Sutton and local schools. Cognus Limited is the leading provider of education support services, working closely with the London Borough of Sutton, local schools and other educational settings. Sutton has a national reputation for excellence in education and is consistently one of the best performing local authority areas in England.

Gareth Gay

Head of Music Service, Cognus Limited

Our Vision

We aim to help every young person in the London Borough of Sutton to make, be inspired by and to celebrate the music they love. It is the job of Sutton Music Hub to deliver this vision and coordinate all the people, partners and resources needed to consistently strive to reach this aim.

Our Mission

We provide access to music in all its forms for the people of the London Borough of Sutton. We offer brilliant and affordable music tuition, opportunities to participate and excel in performance, and we champion new and exciting forms of music.

Whatever your ability, your passion or your preferred music tastes, we want to offer affordable and inclusive opportunities for young people and their communities to get involved.

It is the job of Sutton Music Service to deliver this mission. The SMS is where music teaching, listening and

playing all come together for the benefit of the young people of the London Borough of Sutton.

Our seven principles

- **We are committed to making a difference:**
We believe in our vision, work as one to see it through and measure our impact
- **We are creative in our thinking, but always aim for high standards:**
We always find new ways to engage people to achieve the best results. We always aim to reach the highest levels because of our aptitude and passion
- **We are inclusive and open:**
We work with young people and their families from a range of backgrounds, demographics and abilities.
- **We are open-minded about music:**
We know that different types of music touch people in different ways, so we engage with and celebrate all forms of music and all abilities. Music is music!
- **We advocate music learning for all people, from birth to 25:**
We believe that everyone should have access to music. We advocate music tuition and participation in schools, but also outside of the curriculum. We help people go on musical journeys.
- **We are part of the community and we are a family:**
Our musicians, players, participants and music lovers all have music in common. Our impact on bringing people together through music is more important than any one performance
- **We love what we do:**
We believe the experience of working, playing and listening together is hugely beneficial and hugely rewarding. For all.

Music Service Team

Gareth Gay, Head of Music Service

Claire Cossins, Instrumental Curriculum Leader

Emily Murphy, Senior Vocal Curriculum Leader

Joe Reeves, Youth Engagement Co-Ordinator

Alison Naylor, Music Service Business Manager

Louie Larking, Business Support Officer

Contact Information

Sutton Music Service, 24 Denmark Road, Carshalton, SM5 2JG

Website www.suttonmusicservice.org.uk

For all ensemble enquiries, please email suttonmusicservice@cognus.org.uk or telephone 0208 323 0419

What is an ensemble?

Why learn to play a musical instrument if you then don't use it? Our ensembles are bands, orchestras and choirs where children and young people come together to have fun and make music in a safe environment with the support of expert Sutton Music Service tutors and conductors. Playing in an ensemble helps young musicians progress on their instrument, boosts confidence and team working skills and can inspire a life-long love of music and performance.

Definition:

Ensemble *noun*

a group of things or people acting or taken together as a whole, especially a group of musicians who regularly play together

Sutton Music Service provide a range of bands and orchestras for players of string, woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. Weekly rehearsals take place during term time, with a concert at the end of each term, which all ensemble members are expected to participate in. There are also regular opportunities to take part in collaborative projects with professional musicians, weekend music courses and an annual European concert tour.

Rehearsals take place on weekday afternoons/evenings during term time at: **St. Andrew's United Reformed Church, Northey Avenue, Cheam SM2 7HF.**

Monday:

SYTB - 16:45/17:45 – Main Hall

YMSG – 17:00/18:00 – Miles Hall

YMT0 – 18:00/19:00 – Main Hall

Tuesday:

SYSB – 17:00/18:00 – Main Hall

SYWO – 18:15/20:15 – Main Hall

Thursday:

SYS – 17:00/18:00 – Main Hall

SYC – 18:00/19:00 – Main Hall

Friday:

YMO – 16:45/18:15 – Aitken Hall

SYSO – 17:30/20:00 – Main Hall

Fees for membership of ensembles are paid termly with no reduction for missed rehearsals. Current fees are: £64.00 per term and £32.00 for siblings. You will receive an invoice following your first rehearsal which is payable via online transfer. All the details can be found on your invoice.

Beginner Ensembles

Our beginner ensembles are suitable for most young musicians after 2-3 terms' tuition, and no audition is required. Most young musicians joining an ensemble for the first time will need some support from their instrumental teacher in their regular lessons. It is worth speaking to the instrumental teacher about whether they feel your child is ready to take this step and what support they might require. If you are not sure, your child can always come along to a free trial session – it's generally best to do this at the start of a term.

String players will usually start in Young Musicians String Group (YMSG). Woodwind, brass and percussion players will usually begin in Sutton Youth Training Band (SYTB). We expect young musicians who are joining our beginner level ensembles to have basic note reading skills with an awareness of some chromatic notes. They should also have a basic knowledge of note lengths and rhythms in simple time. When your child has reached a suitable level of ability, our ensembles tutors will encourage them to audition for one of our intermediate ensembles

Intermediate Ensembles

Except for our beginner ensembles, it is necessary to attend an informal audition with one of our ensemble tutors so that we can make sure that this is the most appropriate ensemble for you. For string players, the next step is usually Young Musicians Training Orchestra (YMTO), followed by Young Musicians Orchestra (YMO). For woodwind, brass and percussion players, there are more options as these instruments feature in both bands and orchestras.

We expect young musicians who are joining Young Musicians Training Orchestra (YMTO) and Sutton Youth Symphonic Band (SYSB) to be competent readers with a basic awareness of chromatic notes and different key signatures. They should have a good knowledge of note lengths and rhythms in simple and compound time.

For Young Musicians Orchestra (YMO), they need to be strong readers and have a good understanding of playing in different key signatures and in a range of styles. They should have a strong knowledge of note lengths and rhythms in simple and compound time. As a guide, Young Musicians Orchestra (YMO) is generally best suited to young musicians of around Grade 4-6 ability on their instrument. When your child has reached a suitable level of ability, our ensembles tutors will encourage them to audition for one of our advanced ensembles.

Advanced Ensembles

Entry to our advanced ensembles is by audition and, as a guide, these ensembles are generally best suited to young musicians that have reached a Grade 6 ability or higher on their instrument. We expect young musicians who are joining our advanced level ensembles to be strong readers and they should be confident playing an independent part and in a range of styles.

Sutton Songbirds

Aimed at 5-8-year-olds, Sutton Songbirds is open to all young singers who want to learn new songs, meet new friends and have fun!

Rehearsals take place during our Music Academy at Cheam Park Farm Primary Academy, Kingston Avenue (SM3 9UE) every Saturday from 11-11:45 am (term-time only). Ensemble fees apply.

Conducted by Natalie Vesty

Sutton Young Singers

Sutton Young Singers is aimed at talented and enthusiastic young singers aged 8 to 18. Rehearsals take place on Thursday afternoons from 5:00-5:45 pm at St Andrew's Church, Cheam. Please contact us to arrange a short, informal audition.

Sutton Youth Choir

Sutton Youth Choir (SYC) is an auditioned choir for advanced and skilled singers aged 13-18, aimed at broken and unbroken SATB voices. Rehearsals take place on Thursday afternoons from 6:00-6:45 pm at St Andrew's Church, Cheam. Please contact us to arrange a short, informal audition.

Academy Lessons

Sutton Music Service runs two Music Academies on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings, which take place at Cheam Park Farm Primary Academy.

Our specialist, instrumental music teachers, teach a variety of orchestral instruments in one to one and paired lessons. We provide group music theory and aural lessons catering to students of all ages, as well as composition lessons. There are also new Academy Ensembles that run on Wednesdays and Saturdays:

Don't Fret! Guitar Ensemble

Our brand-new academy ensemble – Don't Fret will be starting at Wednesday Academy in January 2021.

This group is suitable for guitarists who are grade 1-3 standard.

Wednesdays 5.00 – 6.00 pm

BFG Brass

Beginner Friendly Group - A brass ensemble for beginners (2 terms of lessons) up to Grade 2.

Saturdays 9:00 - 9:50am

FAB Band

Further Along Brass - A brass ensemble for intermediate players Grade 3-4.

Saturdays 11:15 – 12:05pm

Frequently asked questions

What if my child can't attend a rehearsal?

Attendance at rehearsals is very important, and we ask that you try to attend rehearsals whenever possible.

To help us monitor attendance, all ensemble members must be registered when they arrive at rehearsals.

There is no need to sign out unless you need to leave early. **If an absence at rehearsals or concerts is unavoidable, please notify Joe Reeves, Youth Engagement Co-Ordinator at**

suttonmusicservice@cognus.org.uk.

Can I sit in on rehearsals?

We do not allow parents to sit in on rehearsals, as with so many children and young people involved, it is just not practical. With the current Covid Risk Assessment in place, we are unable to offer refreshments.

What happens when there is a concert?

All ensembles participate in concerts at the end of each term. These usually take place at St Andrew's Church, Cheam, but sometimes may also be at other local venues, such as Dorking Halls, Fairfield Halls or All Saints Church, Carshalton. Occasionally, there will also be opportunities to perform at world-class venues such as London's Royal Albert Hall or the Royal Festival Hall. Your child must be able to attend rehearsals on the day of the concert as well as the concert itself. You will be informed of the concert details as early as possible each term. You can also check the website for more information.

What should my son/daughter wear for concerts?

For concerts, members of beginner or intermediate ensembles wear a black Sutton Music Service polo shirt, black trousers/skirt (no jeans please), black socks or tights and smart black shoes (no trainers please).

Members of advanced level ensembles wear the same, but with black Sutton Music Service concert shirts instead of polo shirts. Polo shirts and concert shirts can be purchased at rehearsals in the weeks leading up to a concert – polo shirts cost £10.00, and concert shirts cost £15.00.

How can my son/daughter progress to a more advanced ensemble?

With the exception of our beginner ensembles, it is necessary to attend an informal audition with one of our ensemble tutors so that we can make sure that this is the most appropriate ensemble for you. Ensemble tutors/conductors will usually recommend that your child auditions for a more advanced ensemble when they feel they have reached an appropriate level of ability, but speak to Joe Reeves, Youth Engagement Co-Ordinator if you need advice on this.

How can I help?

We often need help at concerts and events and we are very grateful for any help that parents/carers can offer. Sutton Youth Music Supporters' Association (SYMSA) is a registered charity that exists to support the work of Sutton Music Service. Please let us know if you would like to register your interest as a SYMSA volunteer.

SYMSA and Covid-19 Relief Fund

Sutton Youth Music Supporters Association is a registered charity established to support Sutton Music Service in fulfilling their vision to help every young person in the borough to make, be inspired by and to celebrate the music they love. We help at concerts, support with some behind-the-scenes functions and raise funds to help buy instruments, subsidise lessons, trips and tours to ensure that Sutton's amazing young musicians get every possible opportunity to enjoy their music-making. If you believe that young people in Sutton need high-quality musical education and deserve authentic musical experiences, please consider putting yourself forward to join SYMSA.

If you are suffering from financial hardship and would like to find out if you are eligible for any support please send us an email at suttonmusicservice@cognus.org.uk and we will get in contact with you with more details.

Keeping up to date

Our newsletter, *Make Music With us*, is the best way to find out all the key information about rehearsals and concerts. You can also follow us on social media for regular updates.

Visit our website – www.suttonmusicservice.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter – @Sutton_Music

Like us on Facebook – @suttonmusicservice

Further opportunities

High Ashurst residential music weekend (Years 4-8)

Each year in the spring term, we offer all ensemble members in Years 4-8 the opportunity to join us for an action-packed, three-day camp at High Ashurst Outdoor Education Centre on Box Hill near Dorking, in the heart of the Surrey countryside. The weekend provides excellent opportunities for music-making, team building and making new friends. Under the direction of experienced Music Service staff, the children prepare a selection of pieces to perform to parents in a concert on Sunday afternoon. There is also an array of indoor and outdoor activities available, including high ropes and challenge courses, a campfire, football, craft and games. This is a fun-packed weekend which allows our young musicians time to socialise as well as a chance to make music.

Annual summer tour (Year 9 and above)

Our annual summer tour is a highlight of the year for many of our older members. Each summer, we organise a European concert tour and have previously toured Germany, Austria, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Estonia, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and Portugal, Croatia and Italy. This year we are touring in Barcelona and Costa Brava.

Student Council

Our Student Council is elected annually by members of our advanced ensembles and provides a valuable 'student voice' that influences the provision that we offer. Anybody interested in taking part should speak to Joe Reeves, Youth Engagement Co-Ordinator.

**High Ashurst
Residential 2019:**



Ensembles Concert:

